writ petitions against the notices issued by the NPPA in various High Courts in the country and in some cases, courts have passed interim orders restraining the NPPA from taking further action against the petitioner companies.

Manufacture and consumption of indigenous urea

196. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Andhra Pradesh in the manufacture of indigenous urea in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the consumption of urea in the State during the period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of urea in Andhra Pradesh and in the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The share of Andhra Pradesh in the production of indigenous urea was 6.76%, 6.55% and 6.08% during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively.

(b) The consumption of urea in the State during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 was 20.03 LMT, 20.15 LMT and 21.01 LMT respectively.

(c) To encourage investment in the fertilizer sector and to increase indigenous urea production in the country including Andhra Pradesh, the following facilities/concessions are available to the fertilizer industry at present:

(i) As per the Industrial Policy Resolution dated 24th July, 1991 no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up/expand fertilizer plants anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance.

(ii) Deemed Export Benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of International Competitive Bidding.

(iii) Reasonable return of investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to existing urea capacity.

(iv) Import of capital goods for setting up of new fertilizer plants/ modernisation of existing units at a concessional rate of customs duty.

Outlay for Urea projects

197. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay for new projects and expansion of the existing urea projects of PSUs/Cooperative Societies during last year;

(b) the amount utilised till date;

(c) whether the amount was un-utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The total outlay for new/expansion urea projects of PSUs/ Co-operative Societies within the country for the year 2001-02, is Rs.389.74 crore. As on 31.12.2001, Rs. 127.70 crore of the outlay has been utilised. The low utilisation of the outlay was due to non-commencement of implementation of any major urea projects inpublic/co-operative sector during the year.

Effect of Alumina Projects on wildlife

198. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what would be effect of the proposed setting up of the Alumina Projects in the Kashipur block of the Rayagada District in Orissa, from the point of view of wildlife;

(b) whether any study has been carried out by the Wildlife wing of the State Forest Department or Central Government, on the presence of wildlife in the proposed areas, which are being brought under the Alumina projects;

(c) whether the projects would adversely affect the tiger and elephant movement corridors, which are so vital for conservation of wildlife in Orissa; and

(d) whether Government have been apprised of the matter in this regard, if not, why?